

106 - 10 32nd Avenue
East Elmhurst, L.I., N.Y.
December 26, 1945

- Commissioner Sanford Bates
Dep't. Institutions & Agencies
Trenton, New Jersey

Dear Commissioner Bates:

This morning I received a request from Miss Clarke, at Greystone, for information about something that was reported to me as happening in one of the mental health institutions in New Jersey. I was surprised to realize that a question I asked on Monday, December 17, at a meeting of some five social workers, had been referred to you. I was surprised because my question was merely apropos of an impromptu discussion of the long-term patient in New Jersey; and my wonder as to what influence probable shortages of help may have on services in state institutions at present.

To point up my question, I explained that a request had been forwarded to me, about the need of investigation of the absence of Negro workers at one of our state institutions and the innumerable vacancies at the same place. I explained, further, that I wondered about any relationship this might have with another matter brought to my attention, namely, that a person known to me at the New Jersey Urban League, insists that while a patient in a mental health institution in our state she was choked three times, which is the cause of trouble she now has with her throat. I wondered if the knowledge of those present, might throw any light on either or both the situations. You will be interested in knowing that we all felt that you would welcome referral of any such problems, to you.

I hasten to correct any impression that the ex-patient claims she was choked at Greystone. That was not my impression on December 17, and, this morning, check with the record in my office in Newark corroborated the fact that Greystone was not mentioned at all. Greystone was discussed on December 17, but not in terms of anyone being choked there.

To keep the record clear, I wish to state that neither situation occurred at Greystone. I have not completed my investigation of the circumstances, but want you to know that I would not have hesitated to communicate with you when necessary. At this point there is a question of Civil Service in employment picture that needs further clarification.

When I return to my office on Wednesday, January 3, I shall give fuller details to you, and I shall be happy to cooperate with you along whatever appropriate lines are indicated.

Yours truly,

Roy E. Norris
Industrial Relations Secretary